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FROM : AMEMBASSY, JIDDA

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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

APR 11, 1957

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SUBJECT: TRANSMITTING SUMMARY MEMORANDUM OF AUDIENCE WITH KING SAUD ON MAY 8, 1957
IN RIYADH

The enclosed summary memorandum of General Tunner's audience with King Saud in Riyadh on May 8, 1957, is transmitted for the information of those officers of the Department who may be interested in a detailed account thereof. The reference telegram reported our discussion with His Majesty of the situation in Jordan.

His Majesty was clearly glad to see General Tunner again and pleased with the prompt delivery of the eight T-33 jet training aircraft, six of which flew over to Riyadh from Dhahran the same afternoon to put on an airshow at the airport for the King, members of the court, and notables of the city. In His Majesty's automobile on the way to the airport, General Tunner and I had been able to stress to the King the importance of getting the necessary Saudi students into the new air training program on time, now that the training planes had been delivered as promised. The King had quickly agreed that this was an important problem. "We are not poor in money but in manpower," he said, and he was giving his utmost encouragement to what he believed was a growing conviction among the Saudis of the necessity of training.

A careful listing of all the subjects discussed with His Majesty is given on the first page of the memorandum.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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George Wadsworth

Enclosure:

Summary Memorandum of Audience with His Majesty
King Saud, Riyadh, May 8, 1957

Department please pouch to Amman, Baghdad, Cairo, Beirut, Damascus
and Tripoli

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SECRET

(Classification)

Page 1 of

Encl. No. 1

Desp. No. 260

From Jidda

Summary Memorandum of Audience with
His Majesty King Saud

Riyadh, May 8, 1957

Participants: His Majesty King Saud

Ambassador Wadsworth
Lieutenant General Tunner, Commander in Chief, USAFE
Brigadier General Holzapple, USAF
Secretary Stoltzfus
Arab Consultant Mohamed Massoud

(Note: Other members of General Tunner's party were presented to His Majesty but did not participate in the substantive discussions reported herein.)

Subjects:

	<u>Page</u>
1) Delivery of T-33 Jet Trainers--Accidents of May 7.	2
2) U.S. Saudi Relations	3
3) Situation in Jordan	3
4) His Majesty's Visit to Iraq	3
5) Saudi Air Force Training	4
6) Iraqi Delegation to Accompany His Majesty to Baghdad	5
7) Weather Stations for Saudi Arabia	5

(Note: The following additional subjects were discussed privately though more briefly during the dinner to which His Majesty invited all members of General Tunner's party.)

8) Egyptian Complaints Against U.S. Embassy Cairo	6
9) Activities of Egyptian "Military Attaché".	6
10) Baghdad Pact Membership.	6
11) Air Terminal at Dhahran Airfield	7
12) King Idriss on "Situation in Jordan"	7
13) Communist Influence in Yemen.	7
14) Question of Aqaba	8
15) Damnam Port Project	8

SECRET

SECRET
(Classification)

Page ✓ 2 of
Encl. No. 1
Desp. No. 260
From JIDDA

1) Delivery of T-33 Jet Trainers--Accidents of May 7

After compliments; His Majesty said he had been very sorry to hear about the accidents which had happened the day before (when two T-33s crashed near Dhahran).

GENERAL TUNNER: Thank you for your condolence, Your Majesty. These things do happen, though. In our Command we fly an average of 50,000 hours a month and average some 10 accidents per month. These accidents are one of the hazards of our trade.

AMBASSADOR: It is the penalty we must pay, Your Majesty, for being always prepared.

HIS MAJESTY: That is true; it is essential to be prepared in spite of the cost and risks involved. We Arabs have a saying, "Out of evil cometh good."

AMBASSADOR: The General says he has already sent for two more of these planes to take the places of the ones destroyed.

GENERAL TUNNER: We started from Germany with eight planes. Two have been destroyed, but two more are already on their way.

HIS MAJESTY: I am sure we shall have our full complement of planes. I only wish these accidents had not taken place.

AMBASSADOR: Your Majesty, General Tunner has one more point he would like to make. Your Majesty has referred to the saying "Out of evil cometh good." I believe this applies to the very unfortunate happening of yesterday and to this special point.

GENERAL TUNNER: Your Majesty kindly mentioned it has been a long time since I have been here. Many important events have taken place in the interim. Among these have been Your Majesty's visit to the U.S., the further cementing of U.S.-Saudi relations, and the signing of our new Agreement. Many aspects of the new U.S.-Saudi Agreement come under my responsibility and one of the major ones is the training of the Saudi Air Force.

One of our first acts in this connection has been the bringing of eight jet training aircraft to Dhahran so that the training of the Saudi Air Force can start very promptly, as is our sincere intention. I regret the accident that took the toll of two of these aircraft, but these two have already been replaced and there are now eight planes at the Dhahran Airfield.

1. Note: His Majesty interrupted at this point and General Tunner was unable to make the point he had in mind (i.e., the necessity of providing a steady flow of Saudi students into the training program) until later, on the way to the airport (see below).

SECRET

SECRET

(Classification)

Page 3 of 3

Encl. No. 1-

Desp. No. 260

From JIDDA

2) U.S.-Saudi Relations

HIS MAJESTY: It is true that many events have taken place since your last visit. The friendship between myself and President Eisenhower was cemented as was the friendship between the American and Saudi peoples generally. All our friends are pleased with the results and our enemies displeased.

During my visit to America and since my return, many people have tried to tell me that the agreement with the U.S. would be all words and no action, that there would be no "substance" to it. They tried hard to convince me, but I went ahead anyway because I believed, and I fully believe now, that everything we have agreed on will be implemented. You may be sure that I shall continue to exert every effort to further these relations between me and the President and between the United States and Saudi Arabia.

SECRET

SECRET

(Classification)

Page 4 of 11
Encl. No. 1
Desp. No. 260
From JIDDA

(Note: A Saudi protocol officer entered to say that it was time to leave for the airport for the scheduled demonstration of the T-33s. His Majesty arose and led us to the automobiles waiting outside the Palace. In His Majesty's car the conversation continued as follows:)

5) Saudi Air Force Training

AMBASSADOR: Your Majesty, General Tunner had a point he wished to make in connection with the training planes. As promised, they are all here and on time. The General hopes that Your Majesty will see fit to impress upon the Minister of Defense the equal importance of getting the necessary Saudi students to Dhahran for training on time.

HIS MAJESTY: That is right. This is very important to us and it is a big problem. We are not poor in money but in manpower. I believe my people are now convinced of the necessity of training, and I can assure you I am encouraging them as much as possible.

GENERAL TUNNER: A jet pilot, Your Majesty, must be carefully selected. We have to reject nine out of ten applicants.

HIS MAJESTY: Everyone and everything must be at a high standard, I believe.

SECRET

SECRET

(Classification)

Page 5 of 5
Encl. No. 1
Desp. No. 260
From JIDDA

GENERAL TUNNER: Yes. Jet pilots must have a good education, be in good physical condition, and have a good mental attitude because it is so expensive to train one of them.

HIS MAJESTY: (We were now passing the old State Guest House) The Ambassador is fond of the Guest House but we will soon have a new one for him.

AMBASSADOR: Not too soon, I hope, Your Majesty. I have always been fond of this one.

HIS MAJESTY: Most of the old palaces have been given to the Ministry of Education, and this Guest House will be also. The new Guest House will not be far from here.

AMBASSADOR: I am delighted to hear that the old Guest House will serve as a school.

HIS MAJESTY: Actually it will be used as a residence for employees of the Ministry of Education.

AMBASSADOR: We have been hearing more and more about Your Majesty's school program, and everyone has heard of Your Majesty's latest decision that girls' schools, too, are to be established here and in other urban centers.

HIS MAJESTY: As you can see, Riyadh is growing very fast. In addition to the schools, we have new banks, new hospitals, a new hotel, and new streets.

6) Iraqi Delegation to Accompany His Majesty to Baghdad

HIS MAJESTY: Tomorrow the Iraqi delegation which is to accompany me to Baghdad will arrive in Riyadh. The Delegation is headed by Foreign Minister Bashayan and includes Abdullah Damlugi, the Army Chief of Staff, and two other ministers.

AMBASSADOR: We are all hoping great things from this visit, Your Majesty.

HIS MAJESTY: I will let you know the results of it, and if I have anything urgent to tell the U.S. Government, I shall talk to the American Ambassador in Baghdad whom I expect I will be seeing there.

7) Weather Stations for Saudi Arabia

HIS MAJESTY: I would like to ask General Tunner's advice. As you know, transport and travel in Saudi Arabia is mostly by air and all the planes in service are very busy all the time. Saudi Arabia has no interior weather stations and, since we do not wish to count on outside assistance or facilities, I would like to have established four or five weather stations for civilian use. They could, of course, be used by the military as well. I hope the General will be willing to give me some advice on this.

1 - According to Al Bilad al-Saudiyyah of May 12 the full Iraqi party consisted of Bashayan, Damluji, Major General Ubaid Abdullah al-Mabash, Sayyid Ibrahim al-Fadli, Sayyid Amin al-Mumaiz, and Col. Ala' al-Din Mahmoud.

SECRET

SECRET

(Classification)

Page 6 of

Encl. No. 1-

Desp. No. 260

From JTDDA

GENERAL TUNNER: I would be glad to make a study of the matter and let Your Majesty know.

HIS MAJESTY: When I returned from the Hijaz recently, the pilot did not know anything about the weather between the Hijaz and Riyadh, and we were an hour late. Enroute we found ourselves in dangerous weather. This sort of thing should not happen and that is why I want some way of getting reliable reports all the time about the weather for all the planes that fly back and forth across the country.

GENERAL TUNNER: Weather stations could be set up in major centers of the country which would give hourly reports on the local weather in their vicinity, as is done in Europe. Your Majesty then could, for example, have the Riyadh station call to any other station in the country and get an up-to-the-minute weather report at destination.

HIS MAJESTY: Yes, that was what I want. Saudi Arabia will, of course, be prepared to pay for these stations.

AMBASSADOR: Your Majesty, trained Saudi personnel will be needed as well.

HIS MAJESTY: This is very true. We shall await the General's recommendations with much interest.

(Note: Following the air show, General Tunner and I returned to the Guest House briefly before joining His Majesty for dinner at Nasiriyah Palace. At dinner we were able to touch briefly on the following subjects; talking privately through Mohamed as interpreter:)

8) Egyptian Complaints Against U.S. Embassy Cairo

I told His Majesty that I had not failed to inquire of Ambassador Hare regarding the two complaints made to His Majesty by Ali Sabri. I said I had already sent word to Shaikh Yusuf that the first point was in substance true; we had in fact told Nasser that we would oppose any Egyptian support of International Communism "in the Middle East, including Jordan and Saudi Arabia." But there was no truth whatsoever to the second complaint, namely, that we had told the Egyptians that King Saud had complained to us that Egypt was carrying on harmful activities in Saudi Arabia.

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SECRET

SECRET

(Classification)

Page 7 of 7
Encl. No. 1
Desp. No. 260
From Jidda

11) Air Terminal at Dhahran Airfield.

At dinner General Tunner mentioned that, while in Dhahran, he would go carefully into the question of the projected new Airfield Terminal Building. His Majesty expressed pleasure and said that wherever General Tunner was at the time it was completed he would want him to come to the opening.

(Note: The Ambassador then said he had hoped to speak to Shaikh Yusuf Yasin about the Dammam Port project and the question of Aqaba. His Majesty answered that, as Yusuf would not return before the following morning, he would be glad to send Khalid Bey Abu al-Walid to see the Ambassador).

SECRET

SECRET

(Classification)

Page 8 of

Encl. No. 1

Desp. No. 260

From JIDDA

14) Question of Aqaba

I said I had much appreciated His Majesty's courtesy in having a copy of his last letter to President Eisenhower sent to me, together with a copy of his communication to the Secretary General of the UN on the question of Aqaba. I wished to say only that I was informed from Washington that President Eisenhower would be replying very shortly to His Majesty's last two messages on the subjects of Suez, Gaza, and Aqaba.

15) Damnam Port Project

I said that Shaikh Yusuf has asked me to obtain my Government's views on Prince Sultan's proposals to modify our project. I could now say that Washington did not wish to modify it as suggested. I said I would give all the details to Khalid.

Concluding Notes

His Majesty also agreed to my request that Mohamed might remain in Riyadh to discuss administrative matters with Yusuf the next day.

As I took my leave of him after dinner, I again wished His Majesty a happy and successful visit to Baghdad.

At my meeting later the same evening with Khalid Bey I reiterated what I had said to His Majesty re Aqaba and gave him the full substance of the Department's telegram 990 of May 3 regarding the Damnam Port Project. Khalid Bey took careful notes and said he would convey the U.S. Government's views to Shaikh Yusuf Yasin.

SECRET